

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 18073 071242Z

ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 18073

FODAG

PARIS FOR UNESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FAO, OCON, XM

SUBJECT: U.S. POLICY RE FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES

REF: (A) PARIS 32127, (B) ROME 11410 (NOTAL), (C) STATE 264856

1. FODAG OFFICER HAS TALKED TO FRENCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO, AMBASSADOR TOFFIN, ON U.S. PARTICIPATION AS FULL MEMBER OF FAO LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE.

2. OFFICER EXPLAINED HIS VIEW THAT COUNCIL ACTION AND REPORT, SEE CL 71/REP PARAS 299 THRU 233, HAD SETTLED MATTER, ADMITTEDLY IN IMPRECISE LANGUAGE. SETTLEMENT LEAVES PROBLEM IN FAO DG'S HANDS IN THAT HE SHOULD INVITE 'MEMBER NATIONS THAT IN FACT BELONGED TO A PARTICULAR REGION.' SINCE U.S. HAS ALWAYS PARTICIPATED IN LA REGION, IT HAS BELONGED TO LA REGION AND SHOULD BE INVITED AS A MEMBER., DESPITE LA REXREQUEST TO THE CONTRARY. FINALLY, AT NEXT FAO LA REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN 1978 OR 1979, THAT CONFERENCE WILL DECIDE WHO SHOULD BE LA REGIONAL MEMBERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 18073 071242Z

3. TOFFIN, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN TOLD THAT DG IN FACT DOES NOT INTEND TO INVITE U.S. OR FRANCE AS FULL MEMBER TO FAO LA REGIONAL CONFERENCE. TOFFIN HAS GOOD SOURCE OF INFORMATION CLOSE TO DG. THIS IS NOW CONFIRMED BY DG IN WASHINGTON, REFTEL (C).

4. COMMENT: FODAG DOES NOT BELIEVE USG SHOULD RAISE THIS ISSUE AT FAO CONFERENCE AND DOES NOT BELIEVE LA COUNTRIES WILL DO MORE THAN REFER TO COUNCIL REPORT. FODA BELIEVES DG MUST INVITE U.S. AS FULL MEMBER IF WE PRESS CASE. HOWEVER, AS NOTED IN REFTEL(B), UNLESS U.S. PAVES WAY BY APPROACHES TO LA COUNTRIES, FORCING OUR WAY TO NEXT LA REGIONAL CONFERENCE WOULD LEAD TO CONFRONTATION WHICH WE SHOULD AVOID. THUS DEPARTMENT MUST DECIDE IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE. IF USG DOESN'T CARE WHETHER IT IS A FULL MEMBER OR OBSERVER AT LA REGIONAL MEETINGS, THEN OBVIOUSLY GOING AS OBSERVER IS EASY WAY OUT. IF WE DO CARE, WE MUST APPROACH LA CAPITALS. IT IS FODAG'S OPINION THAT MOST OF THIS PROBLEM IS GENERATED BY LOCAL LATIN AMERICAN PERMREPS TO FAO IN ROME, TO WHOM ISSUE HAS BECOME A CAUSE CELEBRE. IN ANY CASE, WE SHOULD COORDINATE WITH FRENCH AND MISS MUSSO HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL. HOLMES

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